

Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 EUR-12 EA-07 NEA-10 ISO-00 AGR-05

CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 FRB-03 H-02 INR-07

INT-05 L-03 LAB-04 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 AID-05

CIEP-01 SS-15 STR-04 TAR-01 TRSE-00 USIA-06 PRS-01

SP-02 FEAE-00 OMB-01 /115 W
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R 301150Z DEC 75

FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4918

INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY CARACAS

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

US MISSION EC BRUSSELS 6781

US MISSION OECD PARIS

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ENRG, PFOR, OECD, IT

SUBJECT: CONFERENCE ON INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC COOPERATION (CIEC)
IN ITALIAN EYES

SUMMARY: CIEC RECEIVED EXTENSIVE COVERAGE AND COMMENT IN
ITALIAN PRESS OF ALL POLITICAL PERSUASIONS. THRUST IS
GENERALLY POSITIVE AND NOT ENTIRELY PESSIMISTIC RE POSSIBILITY
FOR CONCRETE RESULTS. BASED ON PRESS COVERAGE, ITALIAN
READERS HAVE BEEN LEFT WITH IMPRESSION THAT US DOMINATED
CIEC AND WILL DOMINATE EVENTUAL RESULTS; THAT OPEC/LDCS ARE
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ON DEFENSIVE; AND THAT ENERGY WILL BE MAJOR TOPIC. COVERAGE

REMARKABLE FOR TOTAL ABSENCE OF ANALYSIS OF IMPACT ON AND SIGNIFICANCE FOR ITALY. END SUMMARY.

1. CIEC PRELIMINARIES, PLAY-BY-PLAY AND WORLD IMPORTANCE RECEIVED ABUNDANT COVERAGE BY ALL ITALIAN MEDIA. PRESS COVERAGE WAS PARTICULARLY NOTABLE, WITH ON-THE-SCENE COMMENTATORS PRESSED INTO SERVICE TO PROVIDE INTERPRETATION OF EVERY MANUEVER. TREATMENT WAS BY-AND-LARGE OBJECTIVE, OFTEN QUOTING KEY SECTIONS OF IMPORTANT SPEECHES (E.G.: SECRETARY KISSINGER'S) VERBATIM. COMMENTARY REFLECTED, AS USUAL IN ITALY, THE REPORTERS' OR EDITORS' POLITICAL LEANINGS. BASED ON PRESS COVERAG
KITALIAN READERS WILL HAVE GAINED THE FOLLOWING MAJOR IMPRESSIONS OF CIEC:

(A) US DOMINATION. ACCORDING TO ITALIAN PRESS, US CLEARLY DOMINATED CIEC PROCEEDINGS AND WILL CONTINUE TO DOMINATE COMMISSION PROCEEDINGS AS WELL. TONE OF CIEC STEMMED LARGELY FROM KISSINGER'S PACESETTING SPEECH. US CONTROL ADDITIONALLY EVIDENCED BY EMPHASIS GIVEN TO ENERGY MATTERS
DISTRIBUTION
OF COMMISSION CO-PRESIDENCIES AND FINAL DECISION TO RETAIN AMBIGUOUS COMMISSION GUIDELINES. MANY COMMENTATORS ATTRIBUTED US LEADING ROLE TO UNCHALLENGED US LEADERSHIP OF THE INDUSTRIALIZED WEST, RECOGNIZED EVEN BY FRANCE AND FURTHER DEMONSTRATED BY IEA APPROVAL OF THE MINIMUM SAFEGUARD PRICE FOR IMPORTED PETROLEUM. US LEADERSHIP NOT UNIVERSALLY WELCOMED; LEFTIST PRESS DEPLORED THAT THIS WOULD PREVENT REALIZATION OF THIRD WORLD'S "JUST" ASPIRATIONS.

(B) OPEC/LDC WEAKNESS. SIGNIFICANT CIEC DEVELOPMENT AS SEEN BY ITALIAN COMMENTATORS WAS WEAKENING OF OPEC/LDC ALLIANCE. MAJOR CONTRIBUTING FACTORS IDENTIFIED INCLUDED US INITIATIVES AT UNGA SPECIAL SESSION, ENHANCED POSITION OF MODERATE OIL PRODUCERS (I.E. SAUDI ARABIA) VIA A VIA ALGERIA, IRAQ ET AL, AND MOST IMPORTANTLY, LDC ACCEPTANCE OF OIL PRODUCER RESPONSIBILITY FOR THEIR CONDITION. ALGERIAN AND IRANIAN REBUTTALS TO KISSINGER'S FIRST DAY ADDRESS WERE CARRIED BY ALL MEDIA, BUT PRESS COMMENTATORS NOTED THAT AOGERIANS HAD LOST THE MOMENTUM AND LEADERSHIP
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WHICH HAD CARRIED THE DAY AT PREPCON I. WEAKENING OF ALGERIAN PLOY TO RESTORE GLOBALITY THROUGH SPECIAL COORDINATING COMMISSION CONFIRMED, IN ITALIAN EYES, THAT MOMENTUM HAD PASSED TO CONSUMING COUNTRIES. SIGNIFICANT PERHAPS IS THAT REFERENCES TO CIEC'S ROLE IN PROMOTING NEW INTERNATIONAL WORLD ORDER HAD DISAPPEARED BY END OF CONFERENCE, EVEN FROM LEFTIST PRESS.

(C) ENERGY COMMISSION. ITALIAN COMMENTATORS BELIEVE THAT

ENERGY COMMISSION WILL BE SCENE OF MAJOR ACTIVITY AND, PERHAPS, IMPORTANT RESULTS. SPECIAL US INTEREST THERE, AND PERCEIVED LACK OF US INTEREST IN WORK OF OTHER COMMISSIONS, ARE SEEN AS MAJOR REASON. WITH US AND SAUDI ARABIA AS CO-PRESIDENTS, ITALIAN PRESS HAS LED READERS TO BELIEVE THAT RESULTS OF ENERGY DIALOGUE WILL BE GENERALLY FAVORABLE TO CONSUMING COUNTRIES. MORE THAN ANY OTHER SINGLE FACTOR, ALGERIAN LOSS OF POSITION MEASURED BY ITS SECONDARY ROLE ON ENERGY COMMISSION.

2. DESPITE ITALY'S POSITION AS THE INDUSTRIALIZED COUNTRY WITH POTENTIALLY MOST AT STAKE (70 PERCENT DEPENDENT UPON IMPORTED ENERGY, LARGELY DEVOID OF ALTERNATIVE ENERGY RESOURCES, RELATIVELY EXPOSED TO THIRD WORK COMPETITION IN MAJOR EXPORT MARKETS), COVERAGE WAS REMARKABLE FOR ITS LACK OF ANALYSIS OF CIEC'S SIGNIFICANCE FOR ITALY. FORMIN RUMOR'S SPEECH AS EC PRESIDENT RECEIVED NO SPECIAL PLAY; FOR INSTANCE, INFLUENTIAL MILAN DAILY CORRIERE DELLA SERA REPORTED KISSUNGER'S SPEECH ON PAGE 1; RUMOR SPEECH ON PAGE 6. EC ROLE RECEIVED MORE COVERAGE, BUT ANALYSTS CLEARLY HAVE ASSIGNED SECONDARY ROLE TO EC AS WELL. SOCIALIST PARTY DAILY AVANTI SEES EC AS "MEDIATOR" BETWEEN NORTH AND SOUTH, BUT THIS STRANGE NOTION NOWHERE ELSE FOUND.

3. OVERALL COMMENT ON CIEC IS POSITIVE, ALTHOUGH NOT RPT NOT OPTIMISTIC THAT CONCRETE RESULTS WILL BE FORTHCOMING FROM THE COMMISSIONS. THERE IS SUBSTANTIAL RECOGNITION THAT CIEC RESULTS, IF ANY, WILL NOT BE SOON FORTHCOMING... BUT RELIEF THAT THE DIALOGUE HAS BEGUN.VOLPE

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